

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A recording/reproducing medium, comprising:  
a read-only area in which original commodity catalog information is written; and  
a writeable area in which updated commodity catalog information is written when provided by a server.
2. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said read-only area comprises  
a first area in which the original commodity catalog information as of a manufacture time of the medium is written, and  
a second area in which an encrypted key of a vendor is written.
3. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said writeable area comprises  
a first area in which a commodity catalog information update date is written,  
a second area in which updated commodity catalog information is written,  
a third area in which commodity purchase information is written, and  
a fourth area for a user's private information.
4. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said writeable area is an area in which predetermined information is repeatedly written by the server and a user.
5. A method of updating commodity catalog information recorded on a medium using a recording/reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

if the medium is mounted in the apparatus, accessing a server corresponding to the commodity catalog information written on the medium through a computer network;

if a link is set up with the corresponding server, checking whether there is a commodity item to be updated/edited in the commodity catalog information written on a predetermined area of the medium;

if there is a commodity item to be updated/edited, transmitting the corresponding commodity catalog information from the server to the apparatus; and

writing the transmitted commodity catalog information on a rewriteable area of the medium.

6. The method according claim 5, further comprising displaying the commodity catalog information recorded on the rewriteable area of the medium for retrieval after said writing the transmitted commodity catalog information.

7. The method according claim 6, wherein during said displaying of the commodity catalog information, the commodity catalog information is marked so that an updated portion and a non-updated portion are distinguished from each other.

8. The method according claim 7, wherein the updated portion and the non-updated portion are marked with different colors.

9. The method according claim 5, further comprising recording a purchase order based on the retrieval of the commodity catalog information from the medium.

10. The method according claim 5, wherein said checking whether there is a commodity item to be updated/edited is performed through communication with the commodity information server.

11. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 2, wherein said writeable area comprises

- a first area in which a commodity catalog information update date is written,
- a second area in which updated commodity catalog information is written,
- a third area in which commodity purchase information is written, and
- a fourth area for a user's private information.

12. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 11, wherein said writeable area is an area in which predetermined information is repeatedly written by the server and the user.

13. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said writeable area comprises an area to which information is optically written.

14. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said writeable area comprises an area to which information is magnetically written.

15. The recording/reproducing medium according to claim 1, wherein said writeable area comprises an area to which information is written once, and is thereafter a read only area.

16. A method of purchasing from and updating commodity catalog information recorded on a medium, comprising:

accessing a server corresponding to existing commodity catalog information read from the medium;

receiving updated commodity catalog information from the server; and

writing the received updated commodity catalog information on a writeable area of the medium.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the existing commodity catalog information is written in a read-only area of the medium.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the existing commodity catalog information is written in a writeable area of the medium.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein:  
the existing commodity catalog information has a corresponding age that is read from the medium,  
the updated commodity catalog information has a corresponding age that is read from the server, and  
said receiving the updated commodity catalog information comprises  
comparing the ages of the existing and updated commodity catalog information, and  
receiving the updated commodity catalog information where the ages are different.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the existing commodity catalog information comprises original commodity catalog information written in a read only area of the medium, and previously updated commodity catalog information written in a writeable area of the medium.

21. The method according to claim 19, further comprising displaying both the existing and updated commodity catalog information such that the updated commodity catalog information is distinguishable from the existing commodity catalog information.

22. The method according to claim 16, further comprising making a purchase of a commodity using the existing and/or updated commodity catalog information.

23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising

receiving a purchase record from the server after said making the purchase, and writing the purchase record to the writeable area of the medium.

24. The method according to claim 21, further comprising making a purchase of a commodity using the existing and/or updated commodity catalog information.

25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising receiving a purchase record from the server after said making the purchase, and writing the purchase record to the writeable area of the medium.

26. A computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a server controlled method of updating commodity catalog information to a medium on a computer and purchasing from the commodity catalog information, the method comprising:

receiving at the server a request for access by the computer using the medium having corresponding existing commodity catalog information;

checking whether updated commodity catalog information is on the server; and transmitting the updated commodity catalog information to be written on the medium.

27. The computer readable medium according to claim 26, after said checking, further comprising receiving an order for a commodity based upon the existing commodity catalog information.

28. The computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein: said checking comprises comparing a first age of the existing commodity catalog information on the medium with a second age of the updated commodity catalog information on the server, and

said transmitting comprises transmitting the updated commodity catalog information when the second age is less than the first age.

29. The computer readable medium according to claim 28, further comprising, after said transmitting, receiving an order for a commodity based upon the updated commodity catalog information.

30. The computer readable medium according to claim 28, further comprising, after said transmitting, receiving an order for a commodity based upon the combined existing and updated commodity catalog information.

31. The computer readable medium according to claim 29, further comprising, after said receiving the order, transmitting a purchase record to be written on the medium.

32. The computer readable medium according to 26, further comprising receiving a password from the computer, and transmitting an encrypted key to the computer based upon the password.

33. The computer readable medium according to 31, further comprising receiving a password from the computer, and transmitting an encrypted key to the computer based upon the password.

34. A system of making purchases from and updating commodity catalog information on a recording medium, comprising:

a computer having a network accessing device, and a recording/reproducing device to read/write from/to the recording medium, where the recording medium comprises

a read only area containing existing commodity catalog information having a first date, and

a write area; and

a server having a network server and updated commodity catalog information having a second date, the network server that is accessible to the network accessing device over a network,

wherein, after said computer accesses the network server, said server checks whether the second date is different than the first date, and if the second date is different than the first date, transmits the updated commodity catalog information to be written on the write area using the recording/reproducing device.

35. The system according to claim 34, wherein:

said server further comprises an encryption server and an electronic commerce server, the electronic commerce server to transmit an encrypted key to be written on the write area to be used if a commodity is purchased, and to provide electronic commerce between said computer and said server during the purchase, and

said computer further comprises an encryption security device, to provide, if a request is made by said computer for a commodity based upon the existing and/or updated commodity catalog information, the encryption security device and the encryption server authenticate an identity of a user, and provide cryptographic communication between said computer and said server.

36. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

37. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises a network over the Internet.

38. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises a local area network.

39. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises a wide area network.

40. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises an Ethernet network.

41. The system according to claim 35, wherein the network comprises a metropolitan area network.

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